A Synopsis On

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MALE AND FEMALE PERSPECTIVES ON THE PROBLEMS OF INDIAN DIASPORA IN THE SELECTED TEXTS OF SALMAN RUSHDIE, V.S. NAIPAUL, BHARATI MUKHERJEE AND JHUMPA LAHIRI

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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MALE AND FEMALE PERSPECTIVES ON THE PROBLEMS OF INDIAN DIASPORA IN THE SELCETED TEXTS OF SALMAN RUSHDIE, V.S. NAIPAUL, BHARATI MUKHERJEE AND JHUMPA LAHIRI

1) INTRODUCTION :

The origin of comparative literature began in 19th century since it has become established across the globe following the Second World War, the discipline spread rapidly in Germany, but also outside Europe especially in the USA. Initially Comparative Literature connected national literatures that had previously been connected autonomous. Developments like the expansion of the EU and the fall of the Iron curtain but also a trend towards globalization in the arts have made the field of comparative Literature more important than ever. Comparative Literature is a separate branch of Literature. Literary studies deals with human culture. Such as literature and the study of events that happened in the past.

The comparative study attempts to transcend the narrow confines of single area of subjects and searches for similarities between text and authors from different cultural backgrounds. It means the study of individual writers work or book from a purely comparative perspective. The term 'Comparative Literature' refers to a methodology. In French the term means 'literatures compared' Tagore has expressed his concept of the 'VishwaSahitya' or World Literature. He was known as the pioneer in defining the World Literature. The first department for the study of the World Literature comes to be established in 1910. In 1957 at Jadhavpur University in Kolkata the course of comparative literature was introduced. The development of Comparative Literature was accelerated after the Second World War after the disintegration of Europe, people became aware of the comparative literature. They became nostalgic about the unity of Latin literature.

The comparative literature departments in India developed through the English Departments. When the Elizabethan Drama is studied, the researcher has to take into consideration the influence of Seneca Drama. The study of the Restoration drama would be more fruitful if studied with the help of Moliere and the French dramatist. The British writer Chaucer's work can be studied in comparison with the work of Boccaccio. A study of Shakespearean plays in the context of the Latin, French, Italian and Spanish Influences. In the same way the Marathi play ' Wasna Chakra' of Vijay Tendulkar can be studied through the influences of the American playwright Tennessee Williams play ' A Street Car Named Desire' or the poems T. B. Thombare alia Balkavi can be studied in comparison with William Wordsworths nature poems. There are countless examples that attract a comparatist.

2) DEFINITION OF DIASPORA:

The term ‘Diaspora’ has wide ranging conotations and complexities, and is very difficult to explain and or define easily. The word Diaspora is derived from Greek words ‘dia’ and ‘sperian’ which respectively mean ‘through’ and ‘to scatter’. The dictionary relates the Diaspora to the setting of scattered colonies of Jews outside Palestine after the Babylonian exile. The Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary also defines Diaspora:

The process by which people of a particular nation become scattered and settle in particular countries, especially Jews who left in ancient Palestine in this way.(Hornby 320) The Britannia Encyclopedia explains the term as :

‘The dispersion of Jews among the Gentiles after the Babylonian exile(586 B.C.); or the aggregate of Jews outside Palestine or present day Israel’.(vol.3)

As the above definitions deals with the Jewish scattering, the term is essentially associated with the images of journey, voyage, displacement, seeking roots and setting feet on the alternative lands. The classical use of the term capitalized as ‘Diaspora’ only in singular is mainly confined to the study of the Jewish experience Between 1960s and 1970s. The classical meaning is systematically extended to more common description of the dispersion of Africans, Americans, and Irish who conceived their scattering or arising from a cataclysmic event that traumatized the group as a whole. Like Jews, they also have a central historical experience of victimhood at the hands of oppressor. During the 1980s and onwards diaspora is a deployed as ‘a metaphoric designation’ to describe different categories of people: expatriates, expellees, political refugees, align residents, immigrants and ethnic and racial minorities. They came to be a more varied cluster of diaspora than the earlier groups because of their historical experiences, collective narratives and differing relationship to homeland and host lands.

The mid -1990s is marked by the social constructionist critiques holding back the full of force of the concept as well as recognized the proliferation of new diaspora groups and the new ways of studying them. They sought to decompose previously delimiting and demarcating Diasporic ideas of ‘homeland’ and ‘ethnic community’. They argue that as the identities have become deterritorialized and constructed and reconstructed in a flexible and situational way, accordingly the concept of diaspora has to be recorded.

By the turn of the 21st Century the social constructionist critiques are partially accommodated, even they are emptying the notion of diasporic analytical and descriptive powers. .Along with the increased complexity and deterritorialzation of identities, ideas of home and often strong inflection of homeland remain powerful discourses. This consolidation is marked by a modified reaffirmation of the diasporic idea.

3) THE INDIAN DIASPORA:

The subjugation of India and it takes involvement into the British Empire gave rise to the British Empire gave rise to the Indian diaspora. A large part of India came under the British rule, by the year 1830.The British Government of India permitted the transportation of Indians to far off alien lands to nurture their political and economic gains. The decline in the Indian Economy, the riser in natural calamities, the destruction of industries, and the increase in the number of the unemployed, encountered indentured labor. The Indo-Trinidadian scholar scholar Kenneth Perm sad states:

Indentureship recruitment took place in an Indian reeling under the yoke of colonial oppression.

(http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/southasia/ diaspora/reflct.htm)

Although, a very small fraction of the emigrants left voluntarily the majority undertook this voyage to escape the economic hardships and their wretched lives. Over the period 1834 to 1917, namely 1.5 million Indians had sold themselves into doubt bondage. However, the Indians rose from the painful experience of their indentured migration, and during the last few decades succeed in building their lives a new. They have also earned an inestimable and indispensable position in the countries to which they migrated. Today the Indian diaspora constitutes an important force in world literature.

The Indian Diaspora started in the 19th century with the Indians being sent as indentured labors to far off places like Mauritius, Fiji, Guyana, Malaysia, South Africa, Trinidad, Srilanka and various other places. However over two million Indians participated in the world wars, and refused to come back, Boer wars, and refused to come back, claiming the land on which they fought as their own. It is undoubtedly true that the past war Europe was reconstructed with the assistance of the Indians and South Asians. Similarly, their unskilled labor also helped the physical transformation of the Middle East. It is seen that the Indian community, today occupy a place of considerable privilege in the United States.

4) SALIENT FEATURES OF DIASPORA:

1) Alienation, marginalization and identity crisis
2) Different perspectives on cultural identity
3) Demolition of monolittic notion of Asian British
4) Personal experience as travelogues
5) Autobiographical touches / brushing
6) Presentation of landscape and tradition
7) Recreation past
8) Disintegration of self, family and society
9) colonial tension
10) Sharpened nostalgia
11) Intense Desire for home
12) Feeling of rootlessness and homelessness
13) Quest for Indianness
14) Cross-cultural encounter

5) PROBLEMS OF DIASPORA:

1) Expatriate sensibility
2) Insider outsider view
3) Nagging sense view
4) Pretended sense of satisfaction
5) Racial Discrimination
6) Journey Voyage

6) **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**:

The aims and objectives of the present doctoral research are:

1) To assess the problems of male and female problems of Indian Diaspora and the reasons associated with Diaspora.
2) To highlight the difference between male and female problems or perspectives of Diaspora.
3) To determine the place of Diaspora in literature.
4) To evaluate the contribution towards Diaspora literature.
5) To find out some apt solution to the problems of Diaspora.

7) HYPOTHESES:

1) There is difference between male and female perspectives to present Diaspora.
2) There is diversity in the perspective of Male and Female writers.
3) The Problems of Male and Female are different.
4) There are a few common problems that both men and women face.

8) RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The methodology to be adopted for the present research is Analytic, interpretative and comparative and critical with the help of various print and electronic, primary and secondary sources of selected authors and their select literary works. The data will be critically analyzed, compared, and evaluated with the objective of studying a comparative study of male and female problem of Indian Diaspora in the select literary works. The MLA method will be used to cite the references of primary and secondary sources.

9) WRITERS OF INDIAN DIASPORA:

The Indian diasporic writers have greatly enriched the English Literature through their literary contributions. They have been aiming at re-inventing legends, the cadences of mythology, and the complexities of another civilization, cultural assimilation and nostalgia. They dive deep into the realms of imagination and the ocean of memory to paint something quite different and and distinct from that portrayed by fellow novelists, so far, in English language. To name a few , V.S. Naipaul, Bharti Mukherjee, Salman Rushdie, Vikram Seth, Amitav Ghosh, Vikram Seth, AmitavGhosh , Vikram Chandra, Firdausi Kanga, Rohinton Mistry and Amit Choudhury.

The writers of the Indian diaspora write about India even as they seek to locate and complexities of the home country which contains everything in multitude truths, multitude crisis, multitude realities, and this diversity is portrayed for the worldwide reading public and chiefly for the Indians. This aspect is best expressed by the question regarding the authenticity of his writings and the audience for whom he writes and. He replies.

Ask not who I write for I write for you (The Hindu Aug 5th, 2001)

10) ABOUT AUTHORS LIFE AND SELECTED WORKS:

V.S. NAIPAUL was born in Trinidad in 1932. He went to England on a scholarship in 1950. After four at University college, Oxford, He began to write and since then has followed no other profession. He has published more than 30 books of fiction and nonfiction, including 'A House For Mr. Biswas, A Bend In the River, A Turn in South, and a collection of letters, Between Father and son. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2001.

The novel An Area of Darkness is classic of Modern travel writing. It deals with Naipaul's profound reckoning with his ancestral homeland and an extraordinarily perceptive chronicle of his first encounter with India. Travelling from the bureaucratic morass of Bombay to the ethereal beauty of Kashmir, from a sacred ice cave in the Himalayas to an abandoned temple near Madras. Naipaul encounters a dizzying cross- section of humanity: 'browbeaten government works and imperious servants' suavely self-serving religious seeker. The novel also abounds with Naipaul's paralyzing caste system, its apparently serene acceptance of poverty and squalor and the conflict between its desires for the British raj. The result may be the most elegant and passionate book ever written about the subcontinent.

Salman Rushdiewas born in 19th June, 1947 in Mumbai. The novel Midnights Children is written in 1981 by him.It deals with India's transition British colonialism to Independence and the partition of India. It is considered as an example of postcolonial, postmodern, and magical realist literature. The story is told by its chief characters SalimSinai, and is set in the context of actual history with fictional accounts is self-reflexive. Midnights Children won both the Booker Prize and the JamesTait Black Memorial Prize in 1981. It was awarded the "Bookers of Bookers" Prize and the best all-time prize winners in 1993 and 2008 to celebrate the Booker prize 25th and 24th anniversary.

In 2003, the novel listed on BBC's The Big Read poll of the UK's best loved novels. It was also added to the list of Great Books of the 20th century published by Penguin books.

Bharati Mukherjee was born in Kolkata, West Bengal, India. She later travelled with her parents to Europe after Independence, only returning to Calcutta in the early 1950s.

The novel holder of the World is about a tale of a 17th century American girl who ends up an emperor's mistress in India. Hannah East on, born in 1670 in the forests of Massachusetts, at the age 15 moves to Salem with adoptive parents after her father dies of a bee sting and her mother during the French and Indian War-runs off with a lover from the

Nipmuctribe.Having witnessed scalping and worse and harboring the terrible secret of her mother's having gone over to the " Barbarians", Hannah is a deeper well than most young girls at variety , learned in the war. Her oddness, though, are no impediment to marriage with the dashing adventure Gabriel Leggie who takes her first to England then to India , Where Gabriel joins the East Indian Company before going the independent as a pirate – calling that will bring him fame and wealth but also at last death .The narrator is a present day American woman an "asset hunter" whose assiduous research into the past is motivated as much by a desire for understanding as for money; her voice allows Mukherjee's enormous learnedness here to be worn lightly , and pulls her story along like a merchantman under full sail .

Jhumpa Lahiri was born in 1967 in London, England, and raised in Rhode Island. She is graduate of Barnard College where she received a B.A. in English Literature, and of Boston University where she received an M.A. in English, and M.A. in creative writing, an M.A. in Comparative studies in Literature and the Arts, and a PhD IN Renaissance Studies. She has taught creative writing at Boston University the Rhode school of Design and the New School University. Jhumpa Lahiri first novel the Namesake was a major national bestseller and was named the New York Magazine Book of the Year. She lives in New York with her husband and son. To the extent that the Namesake tracks the lives of Bengali Americans living in the North eastern United States, one might say that the novel is inspired by the facts of lahiris life. But the Namesake is also work of fiction. Thus, there important differences between Lahiri's and the stories of the characters. She portrays foremost among these differences is the decision to abuse the novel not on perspective, but on several. The Namesake is a novel of identities and of the way people shape and charge those identities over time. Lahiri draws on a history of English language and European fiction dating back hundreds of years. She makes use in particular of a genre known as the Bildungsroman, or "novel of education", to track Ashima, Ashoke, and Nikhil Gogol through time demonstrates how each of these character grows, falls in love and suffers misfortune. She depicts them both as members of families and communities and as individuals, with need and wants that are particular to them As much is a novel about Bengali-American experience, The Namesake is also a novel of what it means to "make" and " name" oneself within a culture be it American or otherwise. The Namesake is as much adds a reflection of the authors many cultural and intellectual interest as it is an account of the immigrant experience. More than a book " For or " about" Bengali- Americans, The Namesake takes up questions salient to any American, it any cultural community.

11) DATA AND SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS:

The present research accommodates the select fictional works of the two male and female Indian writers in English, namely V. S. Naipaul, Salman Rushdie, Bhartee Mukherjee and JhumpaLahiri will be collected from the primary and secondary sources. The limitation of the research is that it will focus critically the four fictional works. *An Area Of Darkness* (1964) by V. S. Naipaul, *Midnights Children*(1981) by Salman Rushdie, *The Holder of The World* (1993) by Bhartee Mukherjee and *The Namesake* (2006) by JhumpaLahiri. The research is contributed by a comparative study of the male and female perspective on the problems of Indian Diaspora in the select fictional works of V. S. Naipaul, Salman Rushdie, Bhartee Mukherjee and JhumpaLahiri.

12) TENTATIVE CHAPTER SCHEME:

Chapter One: Introduction

The first chapter is going to present an outline of Comparative Literature, Definition of Diaspora, Indian Diaspora, Features of Diaspora and the problems of Diaspora, and writers of Diaspora.

Chapter Two : Male characters perspective in the select fiction of V. S. Naipaul and Salman Rushdie.

Chapter Three: Female characters perspective in the select fiction of Bhartee Mukherjee and JhumpaLahiri.

Chapter Four: Comparative study of the Male and Female characters perspectives on the problems of Indian Diaspora in the select fiction of V. S. Naipaul, Salman Rushdie,Bharti Mukherjee and Jhumpa Lahiri

Chapter Five: Conclusion

The last chapter is aimed at summing up the arguments of the preceding chapters and will ultimately come to a certain conclusion.

13) SCHEDULE OF THE RESEARCH WORK:

The actual research work will begin after the confirmation of my topic, the schedule of the research will be as follows.

First Six Months : Collection of referential material (including primary and secondary sources)

Second six Months: Collection and organization of the referential material and the beginning of the second chapter writers of Indian Diaspora.

Third Six Months: Collection of the referential data and writing of the third Chapter. Male character perspectives in the select fiction of V. S. Naipaul and Salman Rushdie.

Fourth Six Months: Collection of essential referential material and writing the fourth chapter. Female character perspectives in the select fiction of Bhartee Mukherjee and JhumpaLahiri.

Fifth Six Months: A Comparative study of the Male and Female perspectives in the select fiction of V. S. Naipaul, Salman Rushdie, Bhartee Mukherjee and JhumpaLahiri.

Sixth Months: Conclusion of the research(the fifth chapter) and submission of the Abstract of research work. In the following month, careful and systematic reading of research work will be done and it will be followed by printing, Binding and submission of the thesis.

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